

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

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P 101615Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8957

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 2602

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, OVIP, PL

SUBJECT: MITREGA VISIT

REF: (A) WARSAW 8924; (B) STATE 95942

PASS TO COMMERCE (BEWT) AND INTERIOR

1. AS REPORTED IN EMBASSY'S VISA MESSAGE (REF A), EMBASSY WAS NOTIFIED ON MAY 9 THAT VICE MINISTER DLUGOSZ HAD BEEN REPLACED ON MITREGA DELEGATION BY FIRST VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME ECONOMY HENRYK KISIEL. KISIEL WAS MOVED EARLY LAST MONTH (WARSAW 2034 AND 2181) FROM HIS OLD POST AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING COMMISSION TO BECOME FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE NEWLY CREATED JOINT MINISTRY WHICH REPLACED FORMER MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE.

2. UP TO NOW, IT HAS BEEN QUITE APPARENT THAT KISIEL HAS ASSUMED CHARGE OF DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION OF THE NEW MINISTRY. WE UNDERSTAND THE MINISTER, KAZIMIERZ OLSZEWSKI, WHO ALSO IS A DEPUTY PREMIER, NOW SPENDS ONLY ONE DAY PER WEEK IN THE MINISTRY. ONE MINISTRY OFFICIAL OFFERED "PERSONAL OPINION" THIS WEEK TO US THAT EVENTUALLY KISIEL WOULD BE NAMED TO SUCCEED FORMER MINISTER OLECHOWSKI AS THE POLISH CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT

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U.S.-POLISH TRADE COMMISSION.

3. DURING RECEPTION ON MAY 9, THE AMBASSADOR TOLD KISIEL WE WERE DELIGHTED TO LEARN HE WOULD ACCOMPANY MITREGA, AND ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY SPECIAL REASON FOR THE CHANGE AND IF ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS MIGHT BE ARRANGED FOR HIM. KISIEL CLAIMED CHANGE RESULTED FROM SCANDINAVIAN TRIP WHICH DLUGOSZ MUST UNDERTAKE, AND SAID HIS MAIN INTEREST WHILE IN THE U.S. WOULD BE TO TALK WITH "THE BANKERS ON WALL STREET". IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY, HE SAID, FOR US TO ARRANGE ANY EXTRA APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM. FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL TOLD DCM MAY 10 THAT KISIEL REPLACED DLUGOSZ AT INSISTENCE OF "HIGHEST LEVEL OFFICIAL" WHO HAD JUST FOCUSED ON DELEGATION LIST AND WANTED KISIEL, AS UNQUESTIONABLY BEST QUALIFIED FINANCIAL SPOKESMAN, TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL MEETINGS. HE INDICATED THAT MITREGA PLANNED TO RAISE SUBJECT OF JOINT FINANCING OF S&T RESEARCH AT HIGH LEVEL DURING HIS VISIT.

4. COMMENT: KISIEL, WHO HAS RETAINED HIS FUNCTION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF BANK HANDLOWY, WAS WELL KNOWN WHILE AT PLANNING COMMISSION FOR HIS ROLE DURING PAST FEW YEARS IN NEGOTIATING CREDIT FACILITIES WITH WESTERN GOVERNMENTS. NOW THAT BRANDT IS GONE AND THE PROSPECTS FOR GETTING A LARGE CREDIT PACKAGE FROM THE FRG SEEM MUCH LESS LIKELY, IT COULD WELL BE THAT THE GOP DECIDED TO HAVE KISIEL REFRESH HIS CONTACTS WITH U.S. BANKS AND FINANCIAL HOUSES AND TO SEE WHAT THEY MIGHT BE PREPARED TO DO. HE ALSO HAS A COMPLETE GRASP OF PL 480 MATTERS AND CAN SUPPORT MITREGA IN ANY DISCUSSION OF JOINT FINANCING OF PL 480 RESEARCH PROGRAM. END COMMENT

DAVIES

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